

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00

EA-07 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00

NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 SAJ-01

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0020

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4597

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, US, UR

SUBJ: US/SOVIET CONSULTATIONS: DISARMAMENT, THE MIDDLE
EAST AND FRG HOSTAGES PROPOSAL

REF: USUN 4596 (NOTAL)

1. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION OF THE SOVIET NON-USE OF
FORCE PROPOSAL (SEPTTEL), SOVIETS OCTOBER 19 RAISED THE
FOLLOWING TOPICS DURING LUNCHEON HOSTED BY DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV FOR GOVERNOR SCRANTON AND OTHER
MEMBERS OF USUN.

2. DISARMAMENT: ENMOD. RECALLING US/SOVIET COOPERATION
IN WORKING OUT DRAFT TREATY AT THE CCD AND OUR CURRENT
EFFORTS TO WORK TOGETHER IN NEW YORK, KUZNETSOV EMPHASIZED
IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING THE APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY. IO CHIEF ISSRAELYAN TOLD GOVERNOR SCRANTON
THAT MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER GARCIA ROBLES HAD MADE IT
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CLEAR TO HIM THAT HE WAS GOING TO PROPOSE AN

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I OF THE ENMOD TREATY WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE ITS KEY CLAUSE AND WOULD IN EFFECT VITIATE ALL THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED. THE SOVIETS URGED THAT WE SPEAK WITH GARCIA ROBLES (THEY ASSIGNED MEXICO TO US AS IN OUR AREA OF INFLUENCE) BEFORE THE DISARMAMENT DEBATE GETS UNDER WAY ON NOVEMBER 1 IN NEW YORK. ISRAELYAN SUGGESTED THAT GARCIA ROBLES BE TOLD THAT THE US/SOVIET TEXT REPRESENTS THE ONLY BASIS ON WHICH AN AGREEMENT CAN BE OBTAINED AND THAT THIS IS THE RESULT OF YEARS OF WORKING OUT A COMPROMISE FORMULA ACCEPTABLE TO 30 STATES. ISRAELYAN ADDED THAT GARCIA ROBLES WAS APPEALING TO AND COUNTING ON ROUSING EMOTIONAL OPPOSITION OF THE THIRD WORLD TO GREAT POWER INITIATIVES. GOVERNOR SCRANTON SAID THAT WE WERE EQUALLY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING APPROVAL OF THE ENMOD TREATY AND THAT WE WOULD TRY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH GARCIA ROBLES.

3. SPECIAL SESSION AND THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE (WDC). KUZNETSOV SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WERE WILLING TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE ON THE ISSUE OF A SPECIAL SESSION IN VIEW OF THE OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF CONVENING A WDC. THE USSR IS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH A GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A SPECIAL SESSION PROVIDED IT IS AN INTERMEDIARY STAGE TOWARD A WDC. THE SOVIETS HAD TWO PROBLEMS WITH THE YUGOSLAV DRAFT RESOLUTION (USUN 4411): A) SOVIETS SAW NO REASON TO WAIT UNTIL 1978 TO CONVENE THE SPECIAL SESSION; AND B) THE DRAFT CONTAINS NO REFERENCE ON THIS ISSUE. GOVERNOR SCRANTON OBSERVED THAT THE U.S. WOULD WANT CAREFUL PREPARATIONS TO PRECEDE THE CONVENING OF A SPECIAL SESSION. THE DIFFICULTY WITH REFERRING TO A WDC AT THIS STAGE IS THAT IT WOULD SEEM TO RULE OUT CHINESE PARTICIPATION GIVEN THEIR WELL KNOWN OBJECTION TO A WDC. KUZNETSOV REPLIED THAT SUPPORT BY A MAJORITY OF STATES INCLUDING THE U.S. AND THE USSR FOR A WDC WOULD PUT PRESSURE ON THE CHINESE TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION.

3. THE MIDDLE EAST. GOVERNOR SCRANTON EMPHASIZED THAT IT REMAINS VERY DIFFICULT TO MOVE AHEAD ON ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THE SITUATION IN LEBANON BECOMES CONFIDENTIAL

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STABILIZED. THE RIYADH DECISION TO SEEK A NEW CEASE-FIRE WAS AN ENCOURAGING STEP FORWARD TOWARD THAT STABILITY. REPLYING TO KUZNETSOV'S OBSERVATION THAT THE U.S. HAD NOT YET REPLIED TO THE LATEST SOVIET PROPOSAL ON RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, GOVERNOR SCRANTON SAID THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL MAY BE TIMELY IF THE RIYADH DECISION IS IMPLEMENTED. DESPITE US/SOVIET DIFFERENCES OF APPROACH, WE BOTH WANT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-ARAB

DISPUTE. RECENT SOVIET FLEXIBILITY ON THE PLO ISSUE WAS HELPFUL. NO ONE COULD DENY THE CENTRALITY OF THE PALESTIAN ISSUE BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE 1948 REFUGEES ACTUALLY WANTED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN WHAT WAS NOW ISRAEL.

4. THE FRG PROPOSAL ON HOSTAGES. REPLYING TO AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S QUESTION AS TO THE SOVIET POSITION, KUZNETSOV SAID THAT THE USSR IS AGAINST TERRORISM AND THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES BUT THAT IT HAS CERTAIN RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE FRG PROPOSAL. THE SOVIETS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE FRG CHOSE TO HIGHLIGHT THIS SINGLE ELEMENT IN THE OVERALL PROBLEM OF HIJACKING AND TERRORISM. HE THEN CLAIMED THAT THE US IN 1972 HAD FAILED TO SUPPORT A SOVIET PROPOSAL IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALLING FOR THE REPATRIATION OF HIJACKERS AS WELL AS THE RETURN OF HIJACKED AIRCRAFT TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. THE HANDLING OF MERCENARIES WAS ANOTHER PROBLEM NOT ADDRESSED BY THE GERMAN PROPOSAL. GOVERNOR SCRANTON OBSERVED THAT THE UN HAS A POOR RECORD ON THE TERRORISM ISSUE AND THAT, GIVEN THE WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS ON THIS MATTER, IT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO GET ANY AGREEMENT AT ALL. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE FRG HAD DECIDED TO FOCUS ON THE HOSTAGE ISSUE. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS THE CORRECT APPROACH.

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